

ENERGY TIDBITS – August 2008

Green Jobs Initiative has been announced by Governor Granholm – a \$6 million investment in training for jobs in alternative energy industries including wind, solar, biofuels, geothermal and other green industries. The Department of Labor & Economic Growth (DLEG) will partner with community colleges, entrepreneurs and employers to create the training programs employers need to help green companies succeed in Michigan. The new green jobs website, www.michigan.gov/greenjobs, will serve as a clearinghouse for information on internships, jobs, and training opportunities. The site will also facilitate collaboration between businesses, educational institutions, and government, linking research in renewable energy and conservation with development of education and training programs for current and future jobs.

Michigan's Newest Windpark is being built by Noble Environmental Power around the Thumb community of Uby. The Noble Thumb I Windpark will generate 69 MW using 46 GE 1.5 MW turbines, which is enough to power about 23,000 average homes. Noble estimates the project will create approximately 85 new construction jobs, and will result in more than \$3.5 million in property tax payments over the next 20 years.

Grand Traverse Resort & Spa has earned Green Lodging Michigan Leader certification. The Resort has implemented a linen & towel reuse program and a comprehensive recycling program and recently had an on-site energy audit conducted. In 2006, the Resort was certified as a Steward by the Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program in recognition of many environmentally-sound maintenance practices throughout the golf courses and grounds. Last year, the Resort retrofitted diesel maintenance equipment with catalytic converters. Grant Channing, general manager has said, "We understand the impact that a facility of our size can have on the environment, and the need to minimize that impact for the good of our guests, our employees and our community. Every employee is aware of the importance of reducing, reusing, recycling, and conserving. Those practices have become standard operating procedure resort-wide. We truly appreciate recognition of our efforts by Green Lodging Michigan, but that is not an end, only a step along the way." www.grandtraverseresort.com/

Evergreen Solar has chosen Midland over a competing site in another state to establish a new facility that will create string for the company's low-cost String Ribbon™ wafer technology. The project is expected to generate \$55.2 million in new capital investment and up to 596 new Michigan jobs, including 101 directly by the company over the next five years. The Michigan Economic Growth Authority board has approved a state tax credit valued at \$1.8 million over 10 years. The City of Midland has approved a 12-year tax abatement worth \$3.9 million.

Governor Granholm announced that the state of Michigan achieved an 18% reduction in energy use and an annual cost savings of \$21 million at state facilities during the last fiscal year compared to FY 2002. Granholm used the Hart state office building to highlight many of the steps the state has taken such as installing motion detectors, retrofitting light fixtures, and reducing power to buildings at nights and on weekends. The Hart office building will soon feature a pilot thermal storage project that will freeze and store water at night to use in cooling the building during the day. Other projects that have cut energy usage include installation of software that integrates building heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, lighting control, elevator monitoring, and energy

management into one system that can be monitored and managed using a Web page, a pilot program that replaced fluorescent tube lighting with LED lamps in the Escanaba state office building, and installation of daylight harvesting ballasts in several state buildings.

University of Michigan's Solar Car Team won the North American Solar Challenge, crossing the finish line in Alberta, Canada on July 22 after more than 50 hours of racing over 9 days. The car averaged around 45 mph and led from the first day, besting 15 university teams that raced the 2,400-mile course from Plano, TX to Calgary. UM finished about 10 hours before the second place team.

Residential Energy Code will have a public forum on August 12, 9:30 am at the Bureau of Construction Codes, 2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos. BCC has proposed new rules for the Michigan Uniform Energy Code and this is an opportunity for the public to ask questions. The public forum does not replace the public hearing that will be held later. A matrix detailing the proposed rules is available at www.michigan.gov/bcc.

Grand Haven State Park is going green. A new toilet-shower building utilizes natural daylighting, timer-controlled showers, on-demand water heaters, reduced-flow shower heads, low-flow toilets and urinals, and a solar power unit for ventilation. The building will be a prototype for future facilities of this type.

Uni-Solar thin-film solar laminates will power the world's largest rooftop solar power system. The 12 MW system is being installed on GM's assembly plant in Zaragoza, Spain and will become operational in the fall of 2008. When fully operational, the photovoltaic system will produce as much as 15 million kWh's annually, enough to power approximately 4,500 homes. The Zaragoza facility marks GM's third major project involving Uni-Solar laminates. The thin-film flexible solar laminates also power GM parts warehouses in Rancho Cucamonga and Fontana, Calif.

Governor Granholm signed legislation creating Centers of Energy Excellence, a program that will bring companies, academic institutions, & the State together to create alternative energy jobs. The Centers will support the development and growth of alternative energy industry clusters in Michigan by locating a base company in a region with the necessary business and supply-chain infrastructure. The Centers will match the base company with universities, national labs, and training centers to accelerate next-generation research, workforce development, and commercialization. Under the new law, the Michigan Strategic Fund can allocate up to \$45 million for the program. http://www.michigan.gov/gov/0,1607,7-168-23442_21974-195773--RSS,00.html

Michigan Institute of Aeronautics, one of the largest aviation maintenance technician schools in the nation, plans to expand and locate its Power Technology Institute (PTI) in Huron Township. PTI, with 103 students currently, expects to grow to over 600 students over the next 5 years. The Institute focuses on alternative energy and trains students to become technicians and dispatchers. The project will create 145 new jobs, including 103 directly by the Institute. The Michigan Economic Growth Authority board has approved a state tax credit valued at \$847,000 over 5 years to win the project over a competing site in Texas. <http://miat.edu>

Great Lakes Green 2008 Residential Green Building Conference will be held on August 21-23 at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel DeVos Place. MI Great Lakes Green is a

partnership between Green Built Michigan, Inc. and the Michigan Association of Home Builders. Great Lakes Green is intended to be an educational show that will generate greater awareness about residential green building programs and technologies. <http://www.greatlakesgreen2008.com/>

Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty has signed a bill that will require all diesel fuel sold in the state for use in internal combustion engines to contain at least 20% biodiesel by May 1, 2015. However, the increase to 20% biodiesel will not apply during the cooler months of November through March, when the standard will revert to 5% biodiesel.

LogHaven B&B in West Branch has earned Green Lodging Michigan Steward certification. The B&B is not connected to the electric grid and generates its own electricity using a wind turbine and battery storage. They use energy efficient appliances and have recently had an energy audit to help keep energy low. LogHaven B&B has also installed low flow faucets, showerheads, and toilets. The facility avoids using single serve and single use items and has a comprehensive recycling program. "What we do is really just conservation and nothing more than what anyone else could and should be doing," said Gail Gotter, owner of LogHaven B&B. "So for us, everything just comes together and makes sense. Green Lodging complements the fact that Michigan is also trying to take a leadership position in the alternative energy field." www.loghavenbb.com/

Rep. Jay Inslee (D-WA) has introduced legislation to establish a feed-in tariff (FIT) for renewable energy. Inslee's legislation would require utilities — at the request of any new renewable energy facility owner — to enter into a 20-year fixed-rate power purchase agreement. Uniform national "renewable energy payment" rates would be set by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission at levels that would provide a 10% internal rate of return on investment for available commercialized technologies in regions constituting the top 30th percentile of renewable energy resource potential.

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